

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A holographic recording medium comprising: two transparent substrates; a holographic recording material layer sandwiched therebetween; and a spacer integrally embedded in this holographic recording material layer, the spacer being composed of at least either a large number of beads or fibers for regulating a gap between the two transparent substrates, wherein the spacer is arranged around a recording area of the holographic recording material layer.

2. (Original) The holographic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the spacer is formed in a continuous lattice configuration, and the recording area is formed in each lattice cell.

3. (Currently Amended) The holographic recording medium according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the spacer is composed of a large number of spherical beads.

4. (Currently Amended) The holographic recording medium according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the spacer is composed of a plurality of fibers, and the fibers form at least one connection gap therebetween for each of the recording areas.

5. (Currently Amended) The holographic recording medium according to claim 1-~~or~~ 2, wherein

the spacer is composed of fibers, and necked parts for letting a liquid holographic recording material in and out of the recording area are formed in peripheries of the fibers in a longitudinally intermittent fashion.

6. (Original) A method for manufacturing a holographic recording medium, comprising:

a step of forming a frame for surrounding at least one recording area on a transparent substrate;

a step of injecting a liquid holographic recording material into the frame;

a step of arranging a spacer composed of at least either a large number of beads or fibers along the frame before detaching the frame from the holographic recording material;

a step of attaching the transparent substrate to one press stage with a layer of the holographic recording material upward;

a press step of pressing a second transparent substrate against the layer of the holographic recording medium by using another press stage via an elastic member; and

a step of curing at least periphery of the layer of the holographic recording material in this pressed state.

7. (Original) The method for manufacturing a holographic recording medium according to claim 6, comprising the step of arranging another spacer between the spacers arranged along the frame, thereby defining a plurality of recording areas in an area surrounded by the spacers arranged along the frame.

8. (New) The holographic recording medium according to claim 2, wherein the spacer is composed of a large number of spherical beads.

9. (New) The holographic recording medium according to claim 2, wherein the spacer is composed of a plurality of fibers, and the fibers form at least one connection gap therebetween for each of the recording areas.

10. (New) The holographic recording medium according to claim 2, wherein the spacer is composed of fibers, and necked parts for letting a liquid holographic recording material in and out of the recording area are formed in peripheries of the fibers in a longitudinally intermittent fashion.